

REMARKS

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated August 16, 2005. Applicant first notes with appreciation the courtesies extended by the Examiner to Applicant's counsel in the recent telephone interview. In response to the interview and the Office Action, Applicant has amended Claims 1, 14, 27, 31-35, 37 and 38. Applicant respectfully submits that the claims as currently presented are patentable over the cited references. Applicant therefore respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of the application in light of the following remarks.

I. Interview Summary

On October 5, 2005, Applicant's counsel conducted a telephonic interview with the Examiner to discuss proposed amended claims in light of the prior art. The amendments to the claims in this application reflect the proposed amendments discussed. Examiner tentatively indicated that the proposed amendment likely overcame the cited references.

II. The Claims Are Patentable

As background, the present invention provides data structures for storing data strings used by a display management module to display information on a display terminal. The data strings are stored in the data structure and are associated with unique tokens located in the computer program. The data strings are accessed by the display management module based on the tokens and used for display.

In the claimed invention, the data structure has a string data area that includes data strings representing language data. Each character of each data string is a character selected from the group consisting of standard ASCII, extended ASCII, and double byte characters (DBCS). The characters in a data string that are standard ASCII (less than code 80 hexadecimal) or extended ASCII (codes greater than or equal to 80 hexadecimal) with codes less than a predetermined escape code are stored by their ASCII representations in the string data area. Extended ASCII characters having characters codes greater than or equal to the escape code are stored as two-byte codes with the ASCII character code preceded by the escape code. Further, the double byte

characters are encoded sequentially as two-byte codes whose starting value is found by taking the value one greater than the escape code and making the next byte zero. For example, if the escape code is selected to be 0E0 hexadecimal then the first DBCS character code would be 0E100, and the 16 bit values may therefore be incremented sequentially from 0E101 to 0FFFF hexadecimal.

In order to differentiate between codes used for DBCS characters and those used for extended ASCII, the extended ASCII characters must be preceded by the escape code. For example, when processed byte by byte, the code 0E5h encountered by itself in the string data would indicate the start of a 16-bit DBCS character code, such that 0E5 and the following byte would represent the code. In order to represent the actual extended ASCII character of 0E5 hexadecimal, it would be preceded by the escape code, as in 0E0E5. This encoding scheme therefore allows all 256 ASCII codes, as well as a range of 16 bit DBCS character codes to coexist within and be extracted from the string data. As such, the data structure may be designed to contain data strings for not only languages that require textual representations in ASCII and extended ASCII characters, but also for languages, such as Kanji, that require graphical characters that are displayed using DBCS characters.

Specifically, because there are 256 standard and extended ASCII characters and 65,536 possible DBCS characters, it is typically not feasible to encode all of the possible characters in the data structure. For this reason, the data structure is formatted such that all of the standard ASCII characters and some of the extended ASCII characters are encoded into one-byte codes by their associated ASCII code, and those extended ASCII characters whose codes are used in the range reserved for DBCS characters are encoded into a two byte codes, whereby the extended ASCII code is preceded by the escape code. Therefore, the encoding scheme distinguishes the extended ASCII characters in the data strings from the DBCS characters, such that the display management module to can differentiate between normal ASCII character codes and DBCS characters.

In the claimed invention, the user may select an appropriate escape code based on the different types of characters for a particular font. The escape code may be selected such that some of the extended ASCII characters are also preceded by an escape code. By lowering or

raising the value of the escape code, the number of unique DBCS characters that may be encoded in the language strings can be increased or decreased.

Independent Claims 1, 14, and 27 all recite, albeit in somewhat different language, an escape code having a value selected such that all of the standard ASCII, extended ASCII, and double characters can be properly stored in the string data area. Applicant respectfully submits that this aspect of the claimed invention is nowhere taught or suggested by the cited references.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amended claim and the remarks above, Applicant respectfully submits that the case is now in condition for allowance. It is therefore requested that a Notice of Allowance be issued. The Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned attorney to resolve any remaining issues in order to expedite examination of the present application.

It is not believed that extensions of time or fees for net addition of claims are required, beyond those that may otherwise be provided for in documents accompanying this paper. However, in the event that additional extensions of time are necessary to allow consideration of this paper, such extensions are hereby petitioned under 37 CFR § 1.136(a), and any fee required

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therefore (including fees for net addition of claims) is hereby authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 16-0605.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop RCE, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 16, 2005,



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